GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2561
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2016
Fragmentation in Cultivable Land
Tanwar Shri Kanwar Singh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in the fragmentation of cultivable/agricultural land in the country and if so, the extent thereof during the last three years;

(b) the per capita land holding of small, marginal and big farmers at present in the country;

(c) whether the said fragmentation has had an impact on agricultural production in the country and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the corrective measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

???? ??? ????? ?????? ???????? ??? ????? ?????? (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA)

(a): Yes, Madam. Information on operational holdings in various size categories is collected through Agriculture Census, once in every five years. According to the last two Agriculture Census, the total number of operational holdings has increased from 129.22 million in 2005-06 to 138.35 million in 2010-11. Also, the average size of operational holding has decreased from 1.23 hectare to 1.15 hectare during the same period.

(b): As per the latest Agriculture Census 2010-11, average size of various categories of operational holdings in the country is given below:-

Sl. No. Size group of operational holdings Average size of operational holdings (in hectare)
1. Marginal (Below 1.0 ha) 0.39
2. Small (1.0-2.0 ha) 1.42
3. Semi-Medium (2.0-4.0 ha) 2.71
4. Medium (4.0-10.0 ha) 5.76
5. Large (10.0 ha and above) 17.38
6. All Size-Groups 1.15

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(c): No, Madam. Except in the years of adverse weather, rainfall, temperature conditions, natural calamities etc., the production and productivity (per hectare production) of agriculture crops in the country has been generally increasing, as observed in the table given below:-

All-India production of Food Grain
Sl. No. Year Production(Million Tonnes)
1. 2000-01 196.81
2. 2005-06 208.60
3. 2010-11 244.49
4. 2015-16 252.23*

* As on 09.05.2016, (Third Advance Estimate)

Thus, there is no conclusive evidence to suggest that fragmentation of land holding has resulted into adverse impact on agricultural production.

(d): The Government has taken several measures to increase production and productivity of land holdings in the country. These include adoption of modern technologies and practices like multiple cropping, intercropping and integrated farming systems. Support is provided to farmers on seeds, bio-agents, bio-fertilizers, improved farm implements, etc. The ICAR is conducting research programmes to develop location specific varieties and technologies as per the agro-ecological needs for enhancing the production and productivity and to make small land holdings more viable.

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